

September 25, 1911.

HON. T. W. BICKETT, *Attorney-General, Raleigh, N. C.*

MY DEAR MR. BICKETT:—I write to acknowledge and to thank you for both your letters under date of September 22d, and for your opinion relative to the right of an osteopath to sign a death certificate. In regard to this opinion we wish to say that I fear that you misconceived the purpose of the physician's signature on a death certificate. It is not so much for the purpose of certifying that a party is dead as it is for the purpose of stating from what deceased died. Of course if it is only necessary to determine the fact of his death the knowledge of medicine would be altogether unnecessary, but when the question is to determine the cause of death a knowledge of disease and the cause of death is absolutely essential. I would, therefore, like for you to reconsider the matter from this standpoint.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed)

W. S. RANKIN,

Secretary.

September 20, 1911.

HON. T. W. BICKETT, *Attorney-General, Raleigh, N. C.*

DEAR MR. BICKETT:—Two years ago the Board of Directors of Dorland Institute, a school supported by and under the supervision of the Presbyterian Church, and located at Hot Springs, N. C., bought a watershed of 156 acres of land and constructed a reservoir. This school has invested over \$50,000 in buildings, grounds, and equipment, and has spent annually from \$13,000 to \$15,000 maintenance. The city of Hot Springs is now putting in a water supply and proposes to compel the school to use it and pay water tax. I write to ask if, under the circumstances above set forth, the city can compel the Dorland Institute to use the city public water supply and pay water rent?

Your opinion on this matter will be very much appreciated by those interested in the school, and by

Yours truly,

(Signed)

W. S. RANKIN,

Secretary.

RALEIGH, N. C., September 22, 1911.

DR. W. S. RANKIN, *Secretary State Board of Health, Raleigh, N. C.*

DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th in regard to Dorland Institute, and in reply beg to say that this is a controversy between the school and the town about which I do not think it proper for me to express any official opinion. I suggest that the school consult some reputable attorney and be governed by his advice.

Very truly yours,

T. W. BICKETT,

Attorney-General.

RALEIGH, N. C., September 27, 1911.

DR. W. S. RANKIN, *Secretary State Board of Health, Raleigh, N. C.*

DEAR SIR:—*In re* construction of section 23, chapter 62, Public Laws of 1911, I beg to advise:

The section is as follows: "On the appearance of a case of smallpox in any neighborhood, town, or city, the quarantine officer shall use all due dili-